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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,132	09/08/2003	Okinori Tsuchiya	00862.023216.	8668

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EXAMINER

STEPHENS, JUANITA DIONNE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2853	

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,132

Applicant(s)

TSUCHIYA ET AL.

Examiner

Juanita D. Stephens

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Application filed 9/8/03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/6/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by
Nishikori et al (US 6,832,825 B1)

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Nishikori et al. disclose an image processing method, a control method of a generator, a computer program for a generation method, a computer program product storing a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code for a

generation method, and a generation method of generating a correction table to correct print characteristic of a printing apparatus which has nonlinear characteristics between an input signal and a print signal to be output in accordance with the input signal (col 9, lns 52-58) comprising the steps of : 1) printing image (plurality of patches) for measuring amounts of brightness while compensating for the nonlinear characteristics (col 9, lns 38-45; col 10, lns 5-10), 2) printing images for measuring amounts of brightness, which include an image corresponding to an input signal at which print characteristics inflect (col 9, lns 38-45; col 10, lns 50-10), 3) measuring (density sensor 30) amounts of brightness of the printed images, the nonlinear characteristics of which have been compensated for (col 6, lns 38-45; col 10, lns 5-10; col 11, lns 15-28), 4) generating a tone correction table based on the measured amounts of brightness (col 6, lns 50-53; col 10, lns 10-15; col 11, lns 61-66), 5) applying conversion that considers the nonlinear characteristic of the tone correction table (col 6, lns 50-53; col 10, lns 10-15; col 11, ln 1-col 12, ln 15), 6) setting the generated tone correction table in a correction circuit which corrects tone characteristics of an image signal to be supplied to the printing apparatus (col 10, lns 10-15) and , 7) wherein the printing apparatus handles a plurality of neighboring dots as one dot, and expresses tone of one pixel as a combination of ON and OFF of the dots (col 10, lns 28-66, Fig. 7).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 13-20 are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not teach, suggest, or render obvious the combination of a first tone correction table, which is generated while compensating for the nonlinear characteristics, and a second tone correction table having a maximum value different from the first tone correction table. This invention solves the problem of generating a tone correction table, which can accurately correct tone characteristics and can obtain linear output characteristic in a system in which the output of a print signal is discontinuous with respect to an input signal.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juanita D. Stephens whose telephone number is (571) 272-2153. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juanita D. Stephens", with a stylized, cursive script.

Juanita D. Stephens
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2853

February 3, 2005